

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 ACDA-05

IO-10 MC-02 OMB-01 AID-05 ( ISO ) W

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R 141236Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2503

INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

SECDEF WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 6756

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, EG, PK, IR

SUBJ: VISITS OF EGYPTIAN AND PAK MILITARY LEADERS

REF: CARMISH/MAAG 111333Z JUN (NOTAL)

1. LAST WEEK IRANIAN PRESS GAVE PROMINENT PLAY TO VISITS OF EGYPTIAN WAR MINISTER GAMASSY AND PAK AIR FORCE CINC ALI KHAN. BOTH OFFICERS HAD AUDIENCES WITH THE SHAH AND EXTENSIVE TOURS OF IRANIAN MILITARY FACILITIES. IN BOTH CASES, PRESS THEME WAS COOPERATION FOR REGIONAL SECURITY; WITH THE EGYPTIAN THERE WAS ALSO EMPHASIS ON JOINT EFFORTS TO CREATE A REGIONAL ARMS INDUSTRY.

2. WE HAVE NO INSIDE INFORMATION AS TO WHAT WAS ACTUALLY DISCUSSED WITH TWO VISITORS. IRANIANS GENERALLY DO NOT SHARE WITH US THEIR REGIONAL MILITARY PLANNING, EXCEPT WHEN U.S. REGULATIONS ARE POSSIBLY INVOLVED. THUS, PRIOR TO KHAN'S VISIT, IIAF GENERAL KHATAMI AGAIN ASKED US WHETHER WE WOULD HAVE ANY OBJECTION TO PAK PILOTS TRAINING OF F-4S. (AS REPORTED REFTTEL, A PAK-IRANIAN PILOT EXCHANGE HAS BEEN PROPOSED.) WE HEAR RUMORS THAT EGYPTIAN PILOTS  
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MAY ALSO BE TRAINING ON F-4S, BUT HAVE NO CONFIRMATION

FROM MAG OR DAO SOURCES.

3. WE BELIEVE THERE ARE ESSENTIALLY TWO MOTIVATIONS BEHIND GOI'S EXCEPTIONALLY HOSPITABLE RECEPTION OF THESE VISITORS. FIRST, PUBLIC DISPLAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH EGYPT AND PAKISTAN IS USEFUL TO GOI FOR INTERNAL CONSUMPTION, PARTICULARLY AT A TIME WHEN RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS HAVE BEEN TROUBLESOME. THESE ELEMENTS ARE KNOWN TO RESENT ASSERTED INFLUENCE OF FOREIGNERS IN IRAN AND WE MUST PRESUME THEY LOOK WITH DISFAVOR ON POSITION OF U.S. WITH IRANIAN MILITARY. PLAY-ING UP EGYPTIAN, PAK AND, ON OTHER OCCASIONS, SAUDI OR TURK CONNECTION HELPS TO CREATE BETTER PUBLIC RELATIONS FOR GOI.

4. SECOND, AND MORE IMPORTANT, IRAN IS DETERMINED TO FASHION FOR ITSELF A STRONG MILITARY ROLE IN THIS REGION.. COOPERATION WITH PAKS AND EGYPTIANS. WITH THEIR PROVERTY-RIDDEN BUT COMBAT-EXPERIENCED ARMED FORCES, COULD CARRY MUTUAL BENEFITS. WE KNOW THAT IRAN ASPIRES TO BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT AND POSSIBLY A REGIONAL ARSENAL. PAKISTAN AND EGYPT (AND TURKEY) MIGHT PROVIDE THE SKILLED PERSONNEL THAT IRAN LACKS AS WELL AS THE MARKETS IT SEEKS. (DURING FAHD VISIT, PRINCE SAUD COMMENTED WAY WAS NOW CLEAR FOR IRAN TO JOIN ARABS IN JOINT ARMAMENTS MANUFACTURE -- TEHRAN 6435). COOPERATION WITH REGIONAL COUNTRIES WILL ALSO GIVE THEM MOTIVATION TO SUBDUE POSSIBLE UNEASINESS AND CRITICISM OF IRAN'S MILITARY BUILDUP.

5. IN VIEW OF SUBSTANTIAL PROBLEMS CONFRONTING IRANINA MILITARY IN ITS MODERNIZATION PROGRAM--PROBLEMS THAT WE SUSPECT ARE SHARED BY EGYPT AND PAKISTAN--WE BELIEVE THERE IS LIKELY TO BE MORE FORM THAN SUBSTANCE IN THESE REGIONAL RELATIONSHIPS.  
HELMS

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## Message Attributes

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